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Chairman: Mr. Ali ..... (Malaysia)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. Saha

Contents

Agenda item 137: Administration of justice at the United Nations (*continued*)

Agenda item 138: Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (*continued*)

Agenda item 139: Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (*continued*)

Agenda item 140: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Transfer of buildings to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy

Agenda item 161: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (*continued*)

Agenda item 164: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (*continued*)

Agenda item 136: Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (*continued*)

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07-65489 (E)

Agenda item 128: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (*continued*)

Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services/financing of the Procurement Task Force

Agenda item 127: Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Agenda item 128: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (*continued*)

Revised estimates: effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation

Programme budget implications relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates

Draft report of the Fifth Committee

Questions related to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund

Agenda item 126: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*)

Questions deferred for future consideration

Closure of the work of the Fifth Committee during the main part of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly

The meeting was called to order at 12.05 a.m.

Agenda item 137: Administration of justice at the United Nations (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.13)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.13: Administration of justice at the United Nations

1. **Mr. de Rijk** (Netherlands) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.13. Since the Fifth Committee had decided not to endorse the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions to the effect that the period within which staff should submit applications for remedial action should be reduced from 60 to 30 calendar days, and in order to avoid any confusion, he proposed inserting a new paragraph following paragraphs 52 of the draft resolution, which would read "53. *Takes note* of paragraph 35 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions", and renumbering the subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

2. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.13, as orally amended, was adopted.*

Agenda item 138: Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 (*continued*) (A/62/7/Add.30 and A/62/586; A/C.5/62/L.11)

Agenda item 139: Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 (*continued*) (A/62/7/Add.30 and A/62/586; A/C.5/62/L.12)

3. **Ms. Van Buerle** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the Secretary-General's report on the effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation on the revised estimates for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (A/62/586), said that the impact of the proposed recosting on the proposed programme budget for 2008-2009 amounted to an increase of $43,696,600 under the expenditure sections and an increase of $5,492,300 under income sections 1 and 3.

4. **Mr. Saha** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) introduced the related report of the Advisory Committee (A/62/7/Add.30). The Advisory Committee found no technical basis for objecting to the revised estimates of the Secretary-General arising from the recosting of the effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation as set out in documents A/62/586 and A/62/587.

5. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the revised estimates arising from the effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation on the proposed budgets of both the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for the biennium 2008-2009.

6. *It was so decided.*

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.11: Financing of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994

7. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.11 was adopted.*

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.12: Financing of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

8. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.12 was adopted.*

Agenda item 140: Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations (*continued*)

Transfer of buildings to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy (A/C.5/62/L.14)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.14: Transfer of buildings to the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy

9. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.14 was adopted.*

Agenda item 161: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.15)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.15: Financing of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur

10. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.15 was adopted.*

Agenda item 164: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.16)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.16: Financing of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad

11. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.16 was adopted.*

Agenda item 136: Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (*continued*)

Agenda item 128: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (*continued*)

Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and financing of the Procurement Task Force (A/C.5/62/L.26)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.26: Reports of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and Financing of the Procurement Task Force

12. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.26 was adopted.*

Agenda item 127: Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (*continued*)

Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 (A/C.5/62/L.10)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.10: Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

13. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) drew attention to section A, paragraph 2, of draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.10 and said that, as agreed during informal consultations, the following additional subparagraph would be inserted after subparagraph (c):

> "(d) To increase the provision under section 34, Development Account, by the amount of 5 million dollars."

14. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.10, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Agenda item 128: Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (*continued*)

Revised estimates: effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation (A/62/7/Add.30 and A/62/587)

15. **Ms. Van Buerle** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the Secretary-General's report on revised estimates: effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation (A/62/587), said that the revised estimates had been submitted in accordance with established procedures. Schedule 4 contained a detailed list of the effects of recosting by budget section and main determining factor and took account of the adjustments recommended by the Advisory Committee.

16. **Mr. Saha** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should take note of the information contained in document A/62/587.

17. **The Chairman** suggested that the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly that it should take note of the revised estimates: effect of changes in rates of exchange and inflation on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

18. *It was so decided.*

Programme budget implications relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/C.5/62/L.17)

Draft decision A/C.5/62/L.17: Programme budget implications relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

19. **Mr. Wallace** (United States of America) expressed regret that his delegation had been unable to join the consensus on the draft decision at issue and requested a recorded vote on section K, relating to the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.65/Rev.1, as orally revised.

20. **Mr. Hussain** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China in explanation of vote before the voting, said that section K of draft decision A/C.5/62/L.17 should be dealt with in accordance with established procedures and regarded as a statement of programme budget implications. Since the Advisory Committee had provided appropriate guidance and had

taken note of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, the Group of 77 and China would vote in favour of that section of the draft decision.

21. *At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on section K of draft decision A/C.5/62/L.17.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Iceland, Japan, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland.

22. *Section K of draft decision A/C.5/62/L.17 was adopted by 94 votes to 40, with 6 abstentions.**

23. *Draft decision A/C.5/62/L.17 as a whole was adopted.*

24. **Mr. Plunkett** (Canada) said that his delegation had voted against the adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.65/Rev.1, as orally revised, in the Third Committee because of its serious concerns about the preparations for the Durban Review Conference. The Fifth Committee differed from the other Main Committees, however, in that it was primarily a technical body responsible for ensuring the effective and efficient allocation of the Organization's resources. In order to do so, and in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, the Committee required detailed estimates of expenditure, which, in the current case, had not been provided. The principle of adopting budget resolutions by consensus was extremely important for the proper functioning of the Fifth Committee, and he hoped that it would return to that practice without delay.

25. **Mr. Wallace** (United States of America) said that, in the Third Committee, his delegation had expressed its concern about draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.65/Rev.1, as orally revised, and its opposition to the Durban Review Conference. The United States had long tried to respect the established policies and practices of the Fifth Committee, one of which was the provision by the Secretariat of adequate information on programme budget implications. The statement of programme budget implications contained in document A/C.5/62/21 was unlike any other such statement in the history of the United Nations, with the one exception of the 2005 World Summit Outcome, because it lacked the precise and detailed information necessary to enable the Fifth Committee to make an informed decision. His delegation was concerned that the policies and procedures of the Fifth Committee were becoming politicized and had therefore called for a recorded vote on section K of draft decision A/C.5/62/L.17.

* The delegation of Spain subsequently informed the Committee that it had intended to vote against the adoption of section K of the draft decision.

Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009
(A/C.5/62/L.18)

Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.18: Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

26. **Mr. Torres Lépori** (Argentina) introduced draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.18.

27. **Mr. Wallace** (United States of America) expressed regret that his delegation was unable to join the consensus on draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.18 and requested a recorded vote.

28. **Mr. Hussain** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China in explanation of vote before the voting, said that he deeply regretted the fact that the representative of the United States had called for a vote on draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.18, which was the product of months of hard work. Such extreme action had violated the provisions of General Assembly resolution 41/213 and called into question the spirit of consensus, cooperation and trust that had reigned in the Fifth Committee. During the lengthy negotiations on the draft resolution, all delegations' concerns had, to the extent possible, been fully discussed and addressed. He was therefore very disappointed that those negotiations seemed to have been in vain.

29. It was particularly regrettable that the delegation of the United States had made it a practice to challenge the biennial budget resolution in one way or another. The cap imposed on the budget for the biennium 2006-2007 continued to haunt the General Assembly and undermine the intergovernmental process, and it was a shame that no lessons had been learned from that experience. The Group of 77 and China would obviously be voting in favour of draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.18.

30. *At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.18.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

None.

31. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.18 was adopted by 141 votes to 1.*

32. **Mr. Wallace** (United States of America) commended the Fifth Committee for its efforts to reach agreement on a budget for the biennium 2008-2009. He stressed that the general concerns expressed by his delegation, in particular regarding the piecemeal approach to the budget process, had been shared by members of the Group of 77 and China and pointed out that throughout the negotiations on draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.18, his delegation had taken the view that the budget under consideration was preliminary in nature and had voiced its concern when it became

apparent that the final amount would far exceed the initial estimates.

33. The budgets adopted by the Organization must be fiscally sound, but it had been difficult to adhere to that principle in the current circumstances. Ultimately, the inclusion of the estimated additional requirements for the Durban Review Conference had prevented his delegation from joining the consensus on draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.18.

Contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates (A/C.5/62/22)

34. **Ms. Van Buerle** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the contingency fund: consolidated statement of programme budget implications and revised estimates, submitted to the Committee in accordance with General Assembly resolution 42/211, identified potential new charges against the contingency fund, whose level had been approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/254 on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2008-2009.

35. **Mr. Saha** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), in an oral statement, said that the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should take note of the remaining balance of $12,191,000 in the contingency fund.

36. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee should recommend that the General Assembly note that a balance of $12,191,000 would remain in the contingency fund.

37. *It was so decided.*

Draft report of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/62/L.23)

38. **The Chairman** drew attention to the draft report of the Fifth Committee, which was divided into two parts. Part I described the actions taken by the Fifth Committee while part II contained the Committee's recommendations. Since draft resolution I, entitled "Questions relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009", had already been adopted, he invited the Committee to take action on the remaining recommendations in part II of the report.

Draft resolution II: Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/C.5/62/L.19)

39. *Draft resolution II was adopted.*

Draft resolution III: Special subjects relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/C.5/62/L.20)

40. **Mr. Diab** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that, as a result of the failure to take into account the serious concerns which his delegation had expressed during the Committee's discussion of section V of the draft resolution, regarding estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the General Assembly and/or the Security Council, he was requesting a recorded vote on that section. His delegation would explain its position when the resolution was adopted by the plenary Assembly.

41. *At the request of the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, a recorded vote was taken on section V of draft resolution III (A/C.5/62/L.20).*

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guyana, Hungary, Iceland, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Bangladesh, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malawi, Mexico, Panama, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Uruguay.

42. *Section V of draft resolution III (A/C.5/62/L.20) was adopted by 92 votes to none, with 14 abstentions.**

43. **Mr. Quezada** (Chile) said that his delegation had abstained in the vote, believing that the Fifth Committee's tradition of resolving contentious matters by consensus should be maintained. It was precisely because of that tradition that the Committee was meeting at the current early hour of the morning. The issue in question should be discussed in the appropriate forum rather than in the Fifth Committee, which was by nature a purely technical body.

44. *Draft resolution III as a whole was adopted.*

45. **Mr. Ramadan** (Lebanon) said that some misunderstanding might have arisen during the vote on section V of draft resolution III (A/C.5/62/L.20) because some delegations had remained unaware of the deletion from the text, at his delegation's request, of the original paragraph 9, which had been present during the informal negotiations.

46. **Mr. Abelian** (Secretary of the Committee) said that any corrections to the vote on section V of draft resolution III (A/C.5/62/L.20) would be reflected in the report of the Committee.

Draft resolution IV: Unforeseen and extraordinary expenses for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/C.5/62/L.21)

47. *Draft resolution IV was adopted.*

Draft resolution V: Working Capital Fund for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/C.5/62/L.22)

48. *Draft resolution V was adopted.*

Draft report of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/62/L.23)

49. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to adopt the draft report contained in parts I and II of document A/C.5/62/L.23.

50. *The draft report of the Fifth Committee was adopted.*

Questions related to the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (A/C.5/62/L.25)

51. **Mr. Rashkow** (United States of America) requested a recorded vote on paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.25.

52. **Mr. Hussain** (Pakistan), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China in explanation of vote before the voting, said that his Group fully supported the provisions of paragraph 10 of the draft resolution and would therefore vote in favour of it.

53. *At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.25.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

* The delegations of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Colombia, Guatemala, India, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Uruguay subsequently informed the Committee that they had intended to vote in favour of section V of the draft resolution. The delegations of Algeria, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Sudan and Yemen subsequently informed the Committee that they had intended to abstain.

Abstaining:

Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

54. *Paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.25 was adopted by 93 votes to 1, with 47 abstentions.*

55. **Mr. Kovalenko** (Russian Federation) said that his delegation regretted the Committee's recourse to a vote on arrangements which affected the interests of thousands of Pension Fund participants and beneficiaries, as well as the Member States, which were the guarantors of the proper operation of the Fund.

56. Recalling that both the General Assembly and the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board had discussed the complex issue of pension payments in Ecuador over a number of years without finding a solution within the framework of the Pension Fund regulations and rules, he said that a decision to pay compensation to beneficiaries would constitute an undesirable precedent and would carry some risks.

57. His delegation regretted the Committee's failure to reach consensus on the proposal to fund the ex gratia payment recommended by the Pension Board from voluntary contributions, a solution which would have resolved the problem in a way which was technically sound and did not create a precedent interfering with the operation of the Fund, and had decided to abstain in the vote on paragraph 10 of the draft resolution.

58. **Mr. Fermín** (Dominican Republic), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, regretted the lack of unanimous support for the Group's proposal, which had aimed to assist the pensioners in Ecuador who had devoted part of their lives to the Organization. The ex gratia payment required no resources from the regular budget and did not constitute a precedent. His Group hoped that the Fifth Committee would return to its tradition of reaching agreement by consensus.

59. *At the request of the representative of the United States of America, a recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.25 as a whole.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

Canada.

60. *Draft resolution A/C.5/62/L.25 as a whole was adopted by 140 votes to 1, with 1 abstention.*

61. **Mr. Rashkow** (United States of America) said that his delegation was deeply disappointed at the approval of the ad hoc, one-time, ex gratia payment proposed in the draft resolution. His delegation strongly opposed the blanket approach of the draft resolution, which, in the view of the Advisory Committee and the Committee of Actuaries of the Fund, departed from the income-replacement principle and two-track adjustment system in the Fund's regulations and rules.

62. As the Member States bore an important fiduciary responsibility to ensure the financial health of the Pension Fund, his delegation was unable in good conscience to endorse the proposal, which might invite requests for future payments in other cases of national economic instability. Throughout the discussion of the matter, his delegation had made clear its view that all Pension Fund participants and beneficiaries should be treated equitably, and that it was therefore inappropriate for the General Assembly to authorize a special payment to the individuals concerned.

63. Moreover, those individuals were relatively prosperous, receiving pensions of between $20,000 and $50,000 per year while the Organization struggled to help others in desperate need around the world and while Ecuador's average annual income stood at $2,840 and its poverty rate at over 35 per cent.

64. **Mr. Torres Lépori** (Argentina) said that his delegation welcomed the Committee's approval of the measure recommended by the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Board, a technical body with trustworthy experience and know-how.

Agenda item 126: Review of the efficiency and administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations (*continued*) (A/C.5/62/L.24)

Questions deferred for future consideration (A/C.5/62/L.24)

Draft decision A/C.5/62/L.24: Questions deferred for future consideration

65. *Draft decision A/C.5/62/L.24 was adopted.*

Closure of the work of the Fifth Committee during the main part of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly

66. After an exchange of courtesies, during which the Committee also bade farewell to Mr. Rajat Saha, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and in which **Mr. Hussain** (Pakistan), on behalf of the Group of 77 and China; **Mr. Tawana** (South Africa), on behalf of the African Group; **Mr. Ramos** (Portugal), **Mr. Sena** (Brazil), **Mr.** Nagesh **Singh** (India), **Mr. Mir** (United Kingdom), **Mr. Afifi** (Egypt), **Mr. Rashkow** (United States of America), **Mr. Muhith** (Bangladesh), **Mr. Torres Lépori** (Argentina), **Mr. Debabeche** (Algeria), **Mr. Rosales Díaz** (Nicaragua), **Ms. Bárcena** (Under-Secretary-General for Management) and **Mr. Sach** (Controller) took part, **the Chairman** declared that the Fifth Committee had completed its work at the main part of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 2.15 a.m.